Parks and Recreation—1918

Intensive Campaign for Playground Membership Will Be Waged This Week Throughout Galveston.

Beginning next Thursday morning and extending through Saturday the Galveston Playground Association will wage an intensive campaign throughout the entire city for 10,000 new members at a minimum annual fee of 50c. It will be the largest undertaking of its kind ever put on in the United States, according to those in charge. In practically all other cities playgrounds are either built and maintained by the city or by philanthropic individuals. But in Galveston the Playground Association desires a more democratic basis of support.

Plans for canvassing thoroughly every business house and residence in Galveston have been worked out by the advisory committee of the association. The drive will begin Thursday and every effort will be made to reach the goal of 10,000 new memberships by Saturday night. Several hundred men and women have accepted positions on subcommittees to superintend the drive in certain parts of the city. It is the purpose of the drive to interest every man, woman and child in Galveston in playgraunds, with a view of obtaining the co-operation of all citizens in providing additional recreation centers and maintaining them under competent directors.

Actual detailed work in pursuance of general campaign plans already decided upon will be started tomorrow by J. W. Daley, chairman of the advisory committee. Fifteen thousand membership tags and an equal number of receipt blanks have been ordered and are ready. Together with full data covering the various phases of the drive they will be sent out tomorrow to the chairmen of every committee which will take part in the campaign. Mr. Daley requests that any chairman finding that he will be unable to act during the campaign should return the tags, blanks and data by the messenger delivering them.

Parade Is Feature.

Outstanding among the display features of the campaign will be a parade and beach celebration by the children of Galveston beginning Thursday afternoon at 6:30 o'clock. Seventeen divisions will make up the parade which will form on Tremont from Broadway to Avenue P½ and then march to the beach, a section of which will be roped off for the celebration.

An abundance of amusement features will make up the beach celebration. All of the hundreds of children in line will first sing the "Star-Spangled Banner." They will be accompanied by a band. Several bands, both military and civilian, will parade with the children. Dances, games and many kinds of outdoor sports will be taken part in at the beach. Four folk dances will be given by a class of girls from the Morris Lasker Playground under the direction of Miss Mildred Dyer, the director. Mrs. Fred W. Hoecker will be in charge of the parade and celebration and she is hoping that the affair will eclipse in merriment and splendor every other children's celebration ever given in Galveston.

All divisions of the parade, except Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, will assemble at Tremont and Broadway at 6:30 o'clock. Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4 will form at Tremont and Avenue P½. These divisions are made up of children from 5 to 10 years old and it was thought unwise to make them march over two or three blocks to the place of celebration. Divisions 5 to 11, inclusive, will form north of the intersection of Broadway and Tremont street and divisions 12 to 17, inclusive, will assemble south of that point.

Rehearsal Is Planned.

Children who will take part in the parade and all of the ladies in charge of the seventeen divisions are asked to attend a rehearsal to be held at the city auditorium at 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. A band will be present at the auditorium and the children will be trained in a short time to sing one verse of the national anthem. They will also be given an opportunity to become familiar with the music to be played for the special dances to take place on the Boulevard after the parade Thursday.

The seventeen divisions of the parade along with the names or those who will be in charge follows:

Divisions Nos. 1 to 4 inclusive, to meet at Tremont and P½: No. 1, ages 5 to 8 years. Little girls bring dolls, boys bring flags. Miss F. Hoecker, chairman. No. 2, ages 8 to 10 years, Mrs. G. Willits and Mrs. V. C. Amburn. No. 3, Home for Homeless, Mrs. A. Frenkel. No. 2, kindergartens, Miss Reymershoffer's and Johanna Runge Free Kindergarten.

Divisions 5 to 11 inclusive, to meet north of Broadway on Tremont: No. 5, ages from 10 to 12, Mrs. W. Wichlep, Mrs. G. Gibbons. No. 6, B. G. M. boys, Mrs. R. M. Tevis, Mrs. C. Bercaw. No. 7, special costumes, Mrs. L. A. Fox. No. 8, ages from 12 to 14, Mrs. Calvert, Mrs. Abe Blum. No. 9, little gardeners, Mrs. Jens Moller, Miss Erma Hoecker. No. 10, Campfire Girls and East End Playground, Miss E. La Mott. No. 11, Catholic Orphans' Home, Mrs. J. W. Daley, Mrs. Fred Wichlep.

Divisions 12 to 17 inclusive, to meet south of Broadway on Tremont street: No. 12, aged from 14 to 15, Miss H. Uiffy, Miss Leath Hoecker. No. 13, tennis boys and girls, Miss Gladys Hoag, Miss Hellman. No. 14, Friendly Hand Society, Miss Painter, Miss Montgomery. No. 15, Morris Lasker Playground Miss Dyer, Mrs. Dawson. No. 16, Honor Guard Girls, Mrs. Kelso. No. 17, ages from 15 to 16, Miss Lena Mae Bonner, Mrs. Wade Hoecker. Children having small flags are asked to bring them with them for the parade.

Negroes to Campaign.

Arrangements are under way for staging the campaign among the negroes as well as the whites of Galveston. Prominent negro citizens will support this phase of the drive, and all money collected will be handled by an auxiliary association and will be used in providing playgrounds and recreation facilities for the negro citizens and particularly the children of that race in Galveston. T. W. Patrick will be general chairman of this auxiliary drive. Various organizations among the negroes have already taken action looking toward active participation in this campaign. Among these are the mothers' clubs, the school teachers and practically all of the churches and religious societies.

Plans for conducting the campaign among the negroes will be formulated Tuesday night at a public meeting to be held at the Central High School at 8 o'clock. Circular letters were sent out last night to every negro organization and many prominent [illegible] women, stating the purposes of the drive and requesting their presence at the meeting. The committee sending out the letters was composed of T. W. Patrick, Professor H. T. Davis and Miss C. E. Scull. It is hoped that a parade of colored children may be arranged for either Friday or Saturday evening, much after the same type as Thursday's parade.

Following is a copy of the letter sent out last night:

"This city is sadly deficient in playground facilities for our children. The present facilities should be enlarged and additional playgrounds established. You are fully aware of the importance of furnishing proper recreation for children and the president of the United States has issued a proclamation to the effect that nothing should interfere with our taking care of the rising generation by providing healthy and wholesome recreation.

"The Galveston Playground Association will conduct a drive for members on Sept. 12, 13 and 14. Any fund collected from the colored citizens of Galveston will be devoted entirely to the purchase of equipment and betterments for playgrounds for the colored children of this city.

"It is also the desire of the Galveston Playground Association that we organize an auxilliary to the Galveston Playground Association and the funds raised by us in this drive will be assigned to our auxiliary. The annual dues are 50c. Generously inclined can contribute more.

"This is very important work. As the drive for members begins Thursday, Sept. 12, the time is very short and you are urged to be present at a meeting to be held Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Central High School at 8 p. m. Do not fail to come as you no doubt realize that the future generation of the race depends on the care of our children."

MT. VERNON, N. Y. ARGUS
MARCH 7, 1918

COLORED MINISTER CRITICISES THE CITY RECREATION WORK

Among the Colored People —Rev. S. S. Boyd Says it is Apt to Estrange A[illegible] from Church.

Recreational and uplift work for the colored people of Mount Vernon could best be accomplished through the colored churches and their pastors, according to Rev. S. S. Boyd, pastor of the Centennial A. M. E. Zion church. Mr. Boyd, in speaking of this subject today, said that while he with the other negro ministers appreciated the efforts which the recreational commission was putting forth, he believed these efforts, though well intentioned, were largely misdirected and would fall short of the result sought.

If the recreation commission wishes to help, why not use the most natural channel, the colored pastors, who are best acquainted with the needs of their people? Mr. Boyd asked. Here are the churches, some of them fitted up for just this purpose of furnishing wholesome recreation; why shouldn't they be utilized, which would be putting the buildings to good use and at the same time bringing the people under the influence of their own churches and producing lasting benefits.

"If it seems necessary to have dancing, let it be arranged and held by our own people," declared Mr. Boyd, "but dancing is a luxury, not a necessity, and unquestionably we could get along very well without it. As for recreation, we have big basements in our churches which would be fine for that purpose and we offer them for use. They would be good places for basketball and other forms of play. At present the church basements are not used.

"As for dancing itself, not everybody agrees on its propriety, but even agreeing that it is a harmless diversion, would it not be a great deal better to have it under the auspices of the colored people, with colored instructors, rather than with white instructors? Our own people know the best needs of the negroes and can be depended upon to do what is right.

"But the dancing and gymnastics leave the larger question untouched," the minister continued. "They offer passing amusement for the minute perhaps and may serve a purpose in making gay times for the transient negroes in Mount Vernon, the domestic servants, but why couldn't some well directed effort be made for the solid members of the community, the men and women with families, who would like recreation, too. Many of these people do not care to dance. Some of them have religious scruples against it. Others simply are indifferent to dancing. Many are hardworking members of our community and get enough exercise at their vocations without considering dancing or gymnastics.

"Some sort of educational activities, not too heavy, would be a diversion for them and at the same time would prove a lasting benefit not only to themselves, but to the community at large. Suppose there were literary classes, bible classes, classes in dressmaking for the woman, some military training for the men, some instructive moving pictures—why the opportunities are limitless.

"As matters are now going, there is strong likelihood, nay a certainty, of our people being estranged from their churches to follow the will o' the wisp of dancing. Why, we feel the effect already. It is not a good thing for the city, or for the people.

"When our people pass through deep waters it's the pastor to whom they call for help. He helps them when they're sick, when they're in trouble, he marries them, helps them over the stony and at last performs the last rites for them. Now, why can't the pastor share in the people's joys and be a helpful factor with them every day? If the goood people of Mount Vernon, through the recreation commission, wish to help our people, that is well and good, but let the work be done the regular way. Everybody will be satisfied, better results will be accomplished and there will be a better feeling all around."

DALLAS TEXAS [illegible]
JUNE 15, 1918

FT. WORTH PARK BOARD TO PRESENT DOUGLASS PARK TO COLORED CITIZENS, JUNE 19th.

Ft. Worth, Tex., June 13.—The 19th of June will be a gala day with Fort Worth Negroes in more ways than one. In addition to the usual entertainment and celebration of their freedom, the Fort Worth colored citizenry will be presented with beautiful Douglass Park, bought and given by the city of Fort Worth to be used as a recreation park and playgrounds for colored people.

There has been much agitation for a park for colored in Fort Worth covering a period of the past four or five years and the people behind the movement are to be complimented upon the results of their untiring efforts.

An appropriate program has been arranged for this day and prominent members of the Park Board will be in attendance.

A choir composed of the various choirs of the city, directed by Prof. W. F. Bledsoe will render America and other patriotic songs. Invocation, Rev. K. J. Johnson; Rev. A. L. Boone, Master of Ceremonies. The Mayor of the city and the following members of the Park Board will deliver presentation speeches: Hon. Wm. Edrington, B. Wiggins, Geo. Vinnege, W. E. Connell and Pat Conway. Responses will be made by Hon. Wm. M. McDonald, Prof. W. O. Bundy, Revs. S R. Prince, L. W. Mackey, W. G. Upshaw, J. H. Winn, A. L. Carper, L. G Farley, F. Rivers Barnwell, C. J. W Boyd, B. G. Brown and other prominent citizens.

The present Park Board has done much for the colored citizens of Fort Worth by procuring this beautiful park for our benefit and we owe them more than we can repay. Come out and show your appreciation.

PLAY GROUNDS FOR FALL MONTHS ARE NOW OPENING UP

The Birmingham

Morris Lasker Playground Notes

GALVESTON TEXAS NEWS
SEPTEMBER 8, 1918

The play grounds at Dozier Park near Thrash Station on the Pratt-Ensley car line, will be open for the fall months for the recreation and entertainment of school children. The president of the Association, Mr. Mack Dozier, announces that full arrangements have been made by his committee for the proper attraction and entertainment of the children. Teachers and parents are welcome to investigate the grounds at any time.

The park has been quite a rest place for men, women and children during the past years, and many improvements have been made, such as park lights, swings and other conveniences necessary for the proper entertainment. All are invited.

Miss Mildred Dyer of the Morris Lasker Playground announces the installation of a telephone at the office of the playground. The phone necessitated an office girl, and, as there were several ways in which an office girl could make herself very useful, volunteers were called for to take the position. The position is considered a great honor, and is much sought after, and ten girls have signified their willingness to take "training" for the work. Miss Dyer says that she will either have to put more days into the week or make more "positions." The work of the office girl requires care and loan of books and also the letting out of all balls, bats and apparatus. The registration system is used for this, and never yet has anyone failed to return an article.

Miss Dyer wishes to thank the Commercial Association, or the city, or whoever was responsible for the thirty folding chairs which have been received at the playground, and says she feels sure that the immediate neighbors of the playground will be glad to know that they will no longer be compelled to "stand up for their supper" while all available chairs are borrowed.

The Seaboard Rice Milling Company, neighbors of the playground, have also made a present of four dozen drinking glasses. Guests to informal parties and dances will no longer need to be asked to "bring your glass."

The "lost and found department" usually boasts no articles of value, but occasionally useful things or odd things find their way there. Last Sunday Willie Nedbohirk, 6 years old, found a $5 bill. It remained in the collection only an hour or two, when a Bohemian woman who had been visiting the playground discovered her loss and came to look for it. The name and address of the honest little boy was given her, and he has probably received a reward for his part in the return of the money.

It was announced last week at the playground that 15c an hour would be paid for real scrubbers in the swimming pool, and two girls soon after enlisted for active service and came attired for the work. The number of workers grew to eight, and these, in a day and a half, aided by wire brushes, put the pool in the best condition in which it has ever been. The janitor was "boss" and timekeeper, and assisted with the work. The regular formality of signing receipts was gone through at pay day.

Nine boys who have been active in playground affairs who left Friday morning for military duty were honored guests of the West End Community Club at a dance given Thursday evening at the playground pavilion. Informal speeches and a general atmosphere of congratulations, accompanied by good-bys and hand-shakes, made the evening one that will be long remembered. Plans are on foot for a party for the next group of boys who leave.

The field meets for the younger boys are being participated in with much enthusiasm, new members are coming in, and suggestions are being made for each meet. The boys are being taught proper form in accomplishment, and are showing its effect in their work. The instructor in this work is a neighborhood friend. The usual custom of looking over the various signatures before a field meet and noting the nationalities represented has been done away with since the war, for in spite of the fact that a great number of the names denote foreign extraction, the children are all Americans, and are proud of it.

With the going into service of the younger men, the Wednesday field meets will have to be participated in by either the younger boys or the married men. It has been suggested that these meets are an excellent training for the war "game."

The playground girls are working hard on their dances these days, and will be ready to use them in the parade and for the festival later. They are also working on the stringing of the Playground Association tags, which will be sold the day of the drive. This work is no small item, as it means that 15,000 tags must be finished by Tuesday night.

The chapter will organize a new class in dietetics during the next few weeks. Women desiring to become members of the class should make application at the headquarters of the chapter. The class will be instructed at the John Sealy Hospital. Dr. Edward Randall, chairman of the committee on Red Cross education, is making arrangements for the course.

I. F. Smith of Alta Loma made a contribution of $25 to the chapter last week. The Alta Loma unit contributed $10.

So far as is known there are only three women in Texas working in railroad engineer offices as draftsmen and Galveston has the honor of claiming two of them. Miss Bess U. Mills, who came here from Oklahoma City, and Miss Edmonia McEachern, who came here from Dallas, but who was born and reared at Tyler, are the two young women doing this class of work in Galveston in the office of the chief engineer of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railway.

"Can the women do this character of work? They certainly can and just as well, if not better, than the men," was the way Miss Mills expressed her opinion.

She came to Galveston about eleven months ago from Oklahoma City, where she had taken a course in mechanical drawing in the high school and the University of Oklahoma, specializing in higher mathematics. She has the honor of being the only woman to have completed the mechanical drawing course at the University of Oklahoma.

She was told of the demand for women to take the place of draftsmen leaving the employ of the railroads to enter the armed service and she immediately communicated with F. Merritt, chief engineer for the Santa Fe, with headquarters in Galveston. She was given the position and came immediately to Galveston to assume her new duties. She explained that she studied art and as the university did not have a special course along this line she took up the study of mechanical drawing, as that was the only way she could obtain instruction in drawing.

Miss Mills has experienced the life of a school teacher and has also been an instructor in art.

"The longer I do this kind of work, the better I like it," she says. "The work is not tiresome and it surpasses teaching school. I do not see why more women do not take up the work, as it pays well and they can easily fit themselves for the work."

Miss Mills has two brothers in the service helping the allies win the war and she feels that she is doing something to keep things going at home while the soldiers are away.

Miss McEachern has been in the employ of the Santa Fe in Galveston as a draftsman for about ten months and would not trade positions with many of the department heads. She spent three years in an architect's office, gradually picking up the art of the square and compass. She never attended college and did not pay unusual attention to mathematics while attending school.

Miss McEachern before accepting her present position had been at home for about two years with her mother. One day she saw a story in a newspaper calling attention to the need for women to take the place of men who were leaving every day for the battle fields in France. She "felt the call" and wrote Mr. Merritt asking for a position.

"I can see no reason why the women should not take up the work, as I feel sure they can fill the requirements most satisfactorily," she said. "I like the work very much and would not change occupations for anything."

Mr. Merritt said that about a year ago he wrote to a number of schools in Texas and Oklahoma asking for women who could do the work required of the draftsman. He received few responses and at that time he had an idea of starting a school in Galveston to train women for work in the engineer's office. He wanted at least six young women to start with and could not obtain that number.

"I see no reason why women can not make good in this line of work," said Mr. Merritt. "They should have a technical education and naturally they must be neat."

Mr. Merritt said he was well pleased with the work the two young women are doing and is not sorry that he took the lead in Texas in placing them in a new line of work.

In July last year a school for wom was established in the Chicago office the Santa Fe. Twelve young women b gan the study of the art of the squa and compass and at last reports had b come fitted for positions and were no following their new vocations like ve crans.

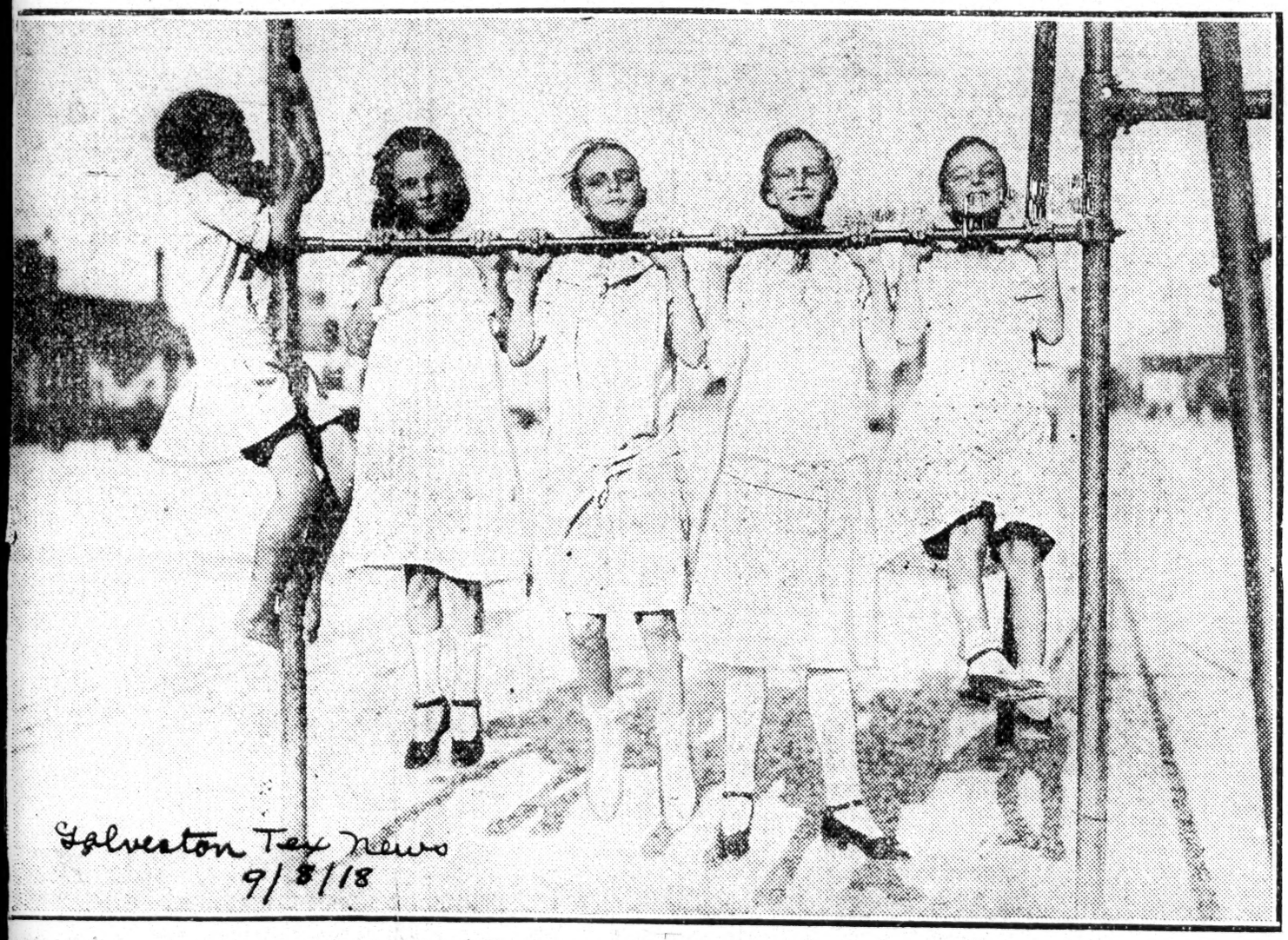
Women Draftsmen Are Good at Men's Work in Galveston

MISS BESS U. MILLS.

MISS EDMONIA McEACHERN.

AMATEUR STEEPLEJACKS.

Parks and Recreation – 1918



Galveston Tex News
9/8/18

LOOKING OVER THE TOP AT THE MORRIS LASKER PLAYGROUND.

HADLEY PARK.

The agreeable news came to us that the City Park Commission was beautifying Hadley Park. This is as it should be. The park has been the laughing stock of our out of town visitors. There has been nothing parkesque about it, just an old worn out corn field devoid of shrubbery and flowers, nothing enticing, nothing to make a fellow want to spend an afternoon in its confines. We trust the news of the improvements are true, and that the good work will continue until we have a beautiful park. We believe if the matter is put right squarely up to the park commission, that these gentlemen will do the right thing by making the park a place of beauty which will compare favorably with the Negro parks in other cities. Let the good work go on until sweet Annie has no abiding place.

The colored people of Chattanooga, Tenn. have opened a park to be known as Lincoln Park. The local lodge of the Odd Fellows had charge of the opening ceremonies.

ST LOUIS MO
SEPTEMBER 13 1918

PARK FOR NEGROES URGED.

Members of the Central Trades and Labor Union of East St. Louis yesterday passed resolutions requesting that the Park Board purchase property, to be used as a park or recreation grounds for negroes. At present negroes are not permitted to use any of the parks in East St. Louis. The resolution was presented by M. J. Whalen, president of the organization.

A park and community center for colored people has been purchased by the city of St. Louis, Mo. It is opposite the colored Sumner high School.

The Crisis. September 1918. P. ~~242~~ 244

A play ground for colored chilaren has been provided for in Jacksonville Florida by the city.

A play ground for colored children has been opened in San Antonio, Texas

The Crisis, ~~May~~ January 1918. P. 143.